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Sen. Heidi Campbell Proposes Gun Safety Bills for the Special Legislative Session

"Comprehensive Common Sense Reforms That Will Make Us Safer"

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Wednesday, Senator Heidi Campbell proposed a suite of gun safety measures for the Tennessee General Assembly to consider when it reconvenes in an August special session called by Gov. Bill Lee to consider gun safety legislation.

"Any one of these bills will improve public safety and reduce gun violence," Campbell said. "These shouldn't be partisan issues, these are common sense measures that will make people safer in our schools, parks, restaurants, and places of worship."

"The leading cause of death for youth is now gun violence," Campbell continued. "It has been described as a 'massive public health threat' by former Republican Sen. Bill Frist."

"Having worked alongside the extraordinary Covenant School Community in my district and in light of the unprecedented number of calls, emails, and letters I have received from people in Nashville and across the state, I feel the fierce urgency to act now on comprehensive common sense reforms."

At the top of the list, Campbell said, is a bill she and Rep. Bob Freeman sponsored following the Covenant shooting to allow a law enforcement officer or a family member to petition for a risk protection order. Governor Lee, in announcing the special session, indicated that he is in support of such a bill.

Other measures that should be taken up include expanded background checks to require any sale or transfer of a firearm to be done through a federally-licensed gun dealer; limiting magazine capacity to ten rounds or less; banning the sale of assault weapons; banning bump stocks; requiring all guns in boats and vehicles to be securely locked and hidden from view - and any gun thefts from vehicles to be reported within 24 hours; and repealing permitless carry.

"Each of these bills would make us safer," Campbell said. "The Governor and I agree that these issues are urgent, and we all took an oath to protect Tennesseans. They're counting on us to get this done."

A complete list of measures is provided below:

Gun Legislation for 2023 Special Session

Extreme Risk Protection Orders - The **Families Know First Act** would allow a court to issue a risk protection order upon a finding by clear and convincing evidence that a person poses a significant danger of causing personal injury to the person or others if allowed to possess or purchase a firearm; authorizes a law enforcement officer or a relative to petition for the risk protection order.

Expanded Background Checks - Would require, subject to certain exemptions, that a sale or transfer of a firearm be done through a federally licensed gun dealer; creates a Class B misdemeanor offense for sales or transfers that are not conducted through a gun dealer.

Limit Magazine Capacity to Ten Rounds or Less - Would create an offense for a person to possess or manufacture an ammunition feeding device that has capacity to accept more than 10 rounds, except for certain circumstances.

Ban Assault Weapons - Would prohibit the sale or purchase of an assault weapon as a Class A misdemeanor; defines assault weapon.

Ban Bump Stocks - Would create the Class E felony offense of purchasing, selling, possessing, or using a part, component, device, or attachment designed to accelerate the fire of a semi-automatic rifle and makes any semi-automatic rifle that includes an accelerated fire part, component, or device a prohibited weapon.

Enforce Guns-in-Trunks Law - Would create the offense of storing a firearm or firearm ammunition in a motor vehicle or boat while the person is not in the motor vehicle or boat unless the firearm or firearm ammunition is kept from ordinary observation and locked within the trunk, utility or glove box, or a locked container securely affixed to the motor vehicle or boat; requires the owner of a firearm to report the loss or theft of the firearm to law enforcement within 24 hours of the discovery of the loss or theft

Repeal Permitless Carry - Would repeal permitless carry and restores the prior gun permitting system which required background checks, four hours of classroom instruction, four hours of range training, and periodic renewals.

MaKayla's Law – Would create a Class E felony offense of reckless endangerment when a person fails to lock, secure or otherwise store or make unavailable a firearm and ammunition for the firearm if a child younger than age 13 obtains possession of the firearm and the discharge results in bodily injury or serious bodily injury to the child or another. Creates a Class C felony offense of reckless endangerment when a person fails to lock, secure or otherwise store or make unavailable a firearm and ammunition for the firearm if a child younger than age 13 obtains possession of the firearm and the discharge results in the death of the child or another.

Third Party Dispossession Affidavit – Would require submission of an affidavit by a third party prior to taking possession of a dispossessed firearm. The affidavit will affirm they are not prohibited from possessing firearms and acknowledging receipt of the defendant's firearms.

Eliminate Third Party Dispossession – Would eliminate the option for individuals prohibited from possessing firearms from dispossessing their firearms to a third party and requires offenders or those otherwise prohibited from possessing a firearm to either surrender their firearms to law enforcement or to sell them to a licensed gun seller.

Illegal Firearm Transfers – Would create a Class A misdemeanor offense to knowingly give, sell, lend, deliver, or otherwise transfer a firearm to a person when the transferor knows or reasonably should know that the person receiving the firearm is prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm under state or federal law. Applies to transfers of firearms made on or after the legislation's effective date.

Violence Intervention Funding – Would create the **Tennessee Violence Intervention Program** within the department of finance and administration's office of criminal justice programs. The stated purpose of the program is to invest in effective, evidence-based violence reduction initiatives focused on the highest-risk individuals in communities disproportionately impacted by community violence.

Voluntary Do Not Sell List - Would create the Tennessee Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearms List (the List) that prohibits the possession, transportation, and sale of firearms to any person who voluntarily registers themselves to be enrolled into the List.

72-Hour Waiting Period - Would require a 72-hour waiting period from initiating a sale until the purchaser takes possession of the firearm.

Permit-to-Purchase - Would require anyone purchasing a gun to first obtain a carry permit (background check, classroom & range training).

Repeal Guns-in-Trunks Law - Would repeal the guns-in-trunks law.

Eliminate Conditional Proceed Sales - Would eliminate the practice of authorizing a gun sale if a background check is not processed in a timely fashion.